

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1. An assay plate for detecting the presence of a first mobile reactant that binds to a  
2 first immobilized reactant, said assay plate comprising:  
3           a substrate; and  
4           a dried aliquot of said immobilized reactant, said immobilized reactant being bound to  
5 the surface of said substrate, said first immobilized reactant binding said mobile reactant when  
6 a solution containing said mobile reactant is brought into contact with said immobilized  
7 reactant.

1           2. The assay plate of Claim 1 wherein said mobile and immobilized reactants are  
2 nucleic acids.

1           3. The assay plate of Claim 1 wherein said mobile reactant is one member of an  
2 antibody-antigen pair and said immobilized reactant is the other member of said pair.

1           4. The assay plate of Claim 1 further comprising a moisture proof covering for  
2 protecting said dried aliquot from moisture during the storage of said assay plate.

1           5. The assay plate of Claim 1 further comprising a dried aliquot of a second  
2 immobilized reactant, said dried aliquot of said second immobilized reactant being at a  
3 different location on said substrate that said dried aliquot of said first immobilized reactant,  
4 said second immobilized reactant binding a second mobile reactant.

1           6. A method for making an assay plate for detecting the presence of a mobile reactant  
2 that binds to an immobilized reactant, said method comprising the steps of:  
3           binding said immobilized reactant to a substrate;  
4           washing said substrate to remove any immobilized reactant that is not bound to said  
5 substrate; and  
6           drying said substrate and said bound immobilized reactant.

1 7. The method of Claim 6 wherein said mobile and immobilized reactants are nucleic  
2 acids.

1 8. The method of Claim 6 wherein said mobile reactant is one member of an antibody-  
2 antigen pair and said immobilized reactant is the other member of said pair.

1 9. The method of Claim 6 further comprising the step of packaging said substrate in a  
2 moisture proof covering for protecting said dried aliquot from moisture during the storage of  
3 said assay plate.

1 10. A method for detecting a mobile reactant comprising the steps of:  
2 providing an assay plate having a dried aliquot of an immobilized reactant bound  
3 thereon, said immobilized reactant binding said mobile reactant when both said immobilized  
4 reactant and said mobile reactant are in a wet state;  
5 bringing a solution containing said mobile reactant into contact with said dried aliquot;  
6 washing said assay plate; and  
7 measuring the amount of mobile reactant bound to said washed assay plate.

1 11. The method of Claim 10 further comprising the step of drying said washed assay  
2 plate prior to measuring the amount of mobile reactant bound to said washed assay plate.

1 12. The method of Claim 11 wherein said measurement of said mobile reactant is  
2 performed on said dried assay plate without the addition of water thereto.

1 13. The assay plate of Claim 10 wherein said mobile and immobilized reactants are  
2 nucleic acids.

1 14. The assay plate of Claim 10 wherein said mobile reactant is one member of an  
2 antibody-antigen pair and said immobilized reactant is the other member of said pair.